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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9161
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000030

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/2020
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: FREEDOM HOUSE DEMOTES BAHRAIN

REF: A. 09 MANAMA 50
[1B](#). 08 MANAMA 845
[1C](#). 09 MANAMA 22

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: Freedom House announced January 12 that Bahrain had been demoted from "partly free" to "not free" in its 2010 global survey of f
- [15](#). Freedom House asserts that political rights suffered as a result of "harassment of opposition political figures," namely "the arrests of pr
- 2.(SBU) New York-based Freedom House released January 12 its annual Freedom in the World report, in which Bahrain was demoted from "partly free
- [10](#). Freedom House's brief justification asserted that early 2009 arrests of several Haq Movement leaders indicated that political rights had t
- 3.(SBU) Media reaction was relatively muted, with only one Arabic-language newspaper carrying a brief article. English-language newspaper Gulf
- 4.(C) Two Al-Wifaq MPs told poloff that they felt that Bahrain should have been re-designated "partly free," notwithstanding many Shia politici
- 5.(C) Comment: While Bahrain's Shia majority continues to suffer from unequal access to mid- and high-level government jobs, as well as lower s